AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A tensioner for tensioning a drive belt, comprising:
a housing having a generally open lower end;
a first connector on the housing;
a shaft disposed within the housing;
an arm having first and second ends and a second connector on the first end that is cooperable with the first connector to attach the arm to the housing;
a bearing disposed within the housing and connected with the shaft and the housing so that the housing is rotatable relative to the shaft;
a reversible biasing element disposed within the housing operable in first and second orientations, wherein the biasing element is displaceable in a preferred direction to provide a biasing force, and wherein in the first orientation the preferred direction is a first direction, and wherein in the second orientation, the preferred direction is a second direction that is different from the first direction; and
an indicator operable to indicate which direction is the preferred direction when the biasing element is in a relaxed state.

2. (Original) The tensioner of claim 1 wherein the indicator is cooperable with a portion of the biasing element.

3. (Original) The tensioner of claim 1 wherein the indicator is reversible.

4. (Original) The tensioner of claim 3 wherein the indicator comprises a button having a characteristic indicative of the direction of the bias of the biasing element.

5. (Previously Presented) The tensioner of claim 1 wherein the indicator is connectable to the housing in a first orientation to indicate that the preferred direction is a clockwise direction and a second orientation to indicate that the preferred direction is a counter-clockwise direction.

6. (Original) The tensioner of claim 5 wherein the indicator is cooperable with a portion of the biasing element such that the biasing element impedes connection of the indicator to the housing in the first orientation when the biasing element is in the second orientation.

7. (Original) The tensioner of claim 6 wherein the indicator is cooperable with a portion of the biasing element such that the biasing element impedes connection of the indicator to the housing in the second orientation when the biasing element is in the first orientation.

8. (Original) The tensioner of claim 1 wherein the indicator comprises a connector for connecting the indicator to the housing.

9. (Original) The tensioner of claim 8 wherein the indicator comprises a lock for locking the indicator to the housing.

10. (Original) The tensioner of claim 1 wherein the biasing element comprises a wound torsion spring having a plurality of convolutions.

11. (Original) The tensioner of claim 1 wherein the biasing element has a first end releasably connected with the housing and a second end releasably connected with a base.

12. (Original) The tensioner of claim 11 wherein the housing has a lower edge confronting the base and the housing is spaced apart from the base to create a gap between the base and the housing.

13. (Original) The tensioner of claim 11 wherein the base comprises a hub forming a socket configured to receive the shaft.

14. (Original) The tensioner of claim 1 wherein the bearing has an outer race fixedly attached to the housing and an inner race fixedly attached to the shaft.

15. (Original) The tensioner of claim 1 wherein the housing comprises a base attached to a lower portion of the housing and the first connector is configured to allow the arm to be attached to or detached from the housing without detaching the housing and the base.

16. (Original) The tensioner of claim 1 comprising a pulley attached to the arm that is configured to cooperate with the belt.

17. (Previously Presented) A tensioner for tensioning a drive belt, comprising:
a housing having a first connector on the housing;
an arm having a second connector that is cooperable with the first connector to attach the arm to the housing;
a reversible biasing element disposed within the housing operable in first and second orientations, wherein the biasing element is displaceable in a preferred direction to provide a biasing force, and wherein in the first orientation the preferred direction is a first direction, and wherein in the second orientation, the preferred direction is a second direction that is different from the first direction; and
an indicator operable to indicate the preferred direction when the biasing element is in a relaxed state.

18. (Original) The tensioner of claim 17 comprising a bearing disposed within the housing and connected with the shaft and the housing so that the housing is rotatable relative to the shaft;

19. (Original) The tensioner of claim 17 wherein the indicator is cooperable with a portion of the biasing element.

20. (Original) The tensioner of claim 17 wherein the indicator is reversible.

21. (Original) The tensioner of claim 17 wherein the indicator comprises a button having a characteristic indicative of the direction of the bias of the biasing element.

22. (Previously Presented) The tensioner of claim 17 wherein the indicator is connectable to the housing in a first orientation to indicate that the preferred direction is a clockwise direction and a second orientation to indicate that the preferred direction is a counter-clockwise direction.

23. (Previously Presented) The tensioner of claim 17 wherein the indicator is connectable with the housing, and is cooperable with a portion of the biasing element, to impede the indicator from being connected to the housing in a way that would indicate a direction other than the preferred direction.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) The tensioner of claim 17 wherein the indicator comprises a connector for connecting the indicator to the housing.

26. (Original) The tensioner of claim 25 wherein the indicator comprises a lock for locking the indicator to the housing.

27. (Original) The tensioner of claim 17 wherein the biasing element comprises a wound torsion spring having a plurality of convolutions.

28. (Original) The tensioner of claim 17 wherein the biasing element has a first end releasably connected with the housing and a second end releasably connected with a base.

29. (Original) The tensioner of claim 28 wherein the housing has a lower edge confronting the base and the housing is spaced apart from the base to create a gap between the base and the housing.

30. (Original) The tensioner of claim 28 wherein the base comprises a hub forming a socket configured to receive a shaft.

31. (Original) The tensioner of claim 30 wherein the bearing has an outer race fixedly attached to the housing and an inner race fixedly attached to the shaft.

32. (Original) The tensioner of claim 17 wherein the housing comprises a base attached to a lower portion of the housing and the first connector is configured to allow the arm to be attached to or detached from the housing without detaching the housing and the base.

33. (Original) The tensioner of claim 17 comprising a pulley attached to the arm that is configured to cooperate with the belt.

34. (Previously Presented) A method for tensioning a belt, comprising the steps of:

providing a base;

attaching a biasing element to the base in one of a first orientation in which the torsion spring is operable to provide a biasing force in a first direction or a second orientation in which the torsion spring is operable to provide a biasing force in a second direction, wherein in the relaxed state, the first orientation is different from the second orientation in a relaxed state;

providing a housing;

attaching the housing to the base and the spring so that the housing encloses the biasing element and the biasing element is operable to provide a torsional force to bias the housing relative to the base;

releasably attaching an arm to the housing or the base so that the arm can be detached from the housing or the base without detaching the housing from the base;

attaching a pulley to the arm; and

operating an indicator to identify whether the biasing element is disposed in the first orientation or the second orientation.

35. (Original) The method of claim 34 comprising the steps of:

rotating the housing in a first direction relative to the base so that the biasing element provides a torsional force biasing element in a direction opposite the

first direction; and

moving the pulley into contact with a belt after rotating the housing relative to the base so that the torsional force tensions the belt.

36. (Canceled)

37. (Original) The method of claim 35 wherein the step of attaching the housing to the base comprises also attaching the base to a machine.

38. (Original) The method of claim 35 comprising the step of detaching the arm from either the housing or the base without removing the housing from the base.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the step of operating an indicator comprises operating an indicator to identify which of the first and second orientations the biasing element is in when the biasing element is in a relaxed state.

40. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the indicator is operable in first and second orientations, and the step of operating the indicator comprises connecting the indicator to the housing in either the first or second orientation.

41. (Previously Presented) A tensioner for tensioning a drive belt, comprising:

a housing having a first connector on the housing;

an arm connected with the housing;

a reversible biasing element disposed within the housing operable in a first orientation and a second orientation that is difference from the first orientation; and

an indicator operable to indicate the reversible element is disposed in the first orientation or the second orientation when the biasing element is in a relaxed state.

42. (Previously Presented) The tensioner of claim 41 wherein the indicator is removably connectable with the housing.

43. (Previously Presented) The tensioner of claim 41 wherein the indicator is connectable in a first orientation, indicating that the biasing element is disposed in the first orientation, and the indicator is connectable in a second orientation, indicating that the biasing element is disposed in the second orientation.

44. (Previously Presented) The tensioner of claim 41 wherein the biasing element is configured to be displaceable in a preferred direction to provide a biasing force;

wherein when the biasing element is disposed in the housing in the first orientation, the preferred direction is a first direction, and wherein when the biasing element is disposed in the second orientation, the preferred direction is a second direction that is different from the first direction; and

wherein the indicator is operable to indicate the preferred direction.

45. (Previously Presented) The tensioner of claim 44 wherein the indicator is cooperable with the biasing element to impede connecting the indicator to the housing in a first orientation when the biasing element is disposed in a second orientation.

46. (Previously Presented) The tensioner of claim 41 wherein the arm comprises a connector for releasably connecting the arm with the housing.

47. (Previously Presented) The tensioner of claim 41 comprising:

a shaft disposed within the housing; and

a bearing disposed within the housing and connected with the shaft and the housing so that the housing is rotatable relative to the shaft.